

Superfund Sites

FIVE NEW SUPERFUND SITES PROPOSED FOR CALIFORNIA

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has proposed the addition of five California sites to the federal Superfund National Priorities List.

► The GBF, Inc. Dump in Antioch once accepted sludges, acids, oils, and slurries containing hazardous substances including hexavalent chromium, lead, cyanide, asbestos, acetone, trichloroethylene, benzene, tetrachloroethylene, formaldehyde, phenol, DDT, and diazinon. Wastes were deposited in unlined impoundments interconnected by cascading conduits that allowed liquid wastes to flow freely.

Since 1974, only non-hazardous waste has been accepted at the 11-acre site, but monitoring wells on and north of the site are contaminated with cadmium, nickel, cyanide, and volatile organic compounds, according to EPA.

► McCormick & Baxter Creosoting Co. of Stockton operated a wood-preserving facility from 1942 to 1990

at its 29-acre site. Utility poles and railroad ties were treated with creosote, pentachlorophenol, and arsenic compounds. According to EPA, waste oils generated from the wood-treatment processes were dumped into unlined ponds and concrete tanks onsite, and surface water runoff from the site was collected in two storm water collection ponds.

Arsenic and pentachlorophenol air particulates were detected onsite in 1989, raising concerns about the 105,000 people who live and work within four miles of the site. The facility was proposed for listing after McCormick & Baxter's filing in 1988 for protection under Chapter 11 of the Federal Bankruptcy Code.

► The Concord Naval Weapons Station encompasses more than 12,800 acres of inland and tidal areas and serves as the major ammunition transshipment port on the west coast for the Department of the Navy, according to EPA. Transshipment operations are conducted at the wetlands bordering Suisun Bay, also known as the tidal area. Wastes generated at the site have been disposed of in the tidal area since operations began there in 1942.

Navy investigations have identified 32 areas of potential contamination in the 7,630-acre tidal area and contaminants found in soil and surface waters include zinc, copper, lead, cadmium, arsenic, naphthalene, and methylene chloride.

► The National Aeronautics and Space Administration's 176-acre Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena has contamination in several areas, including several seepage pits that once held liquid and solid waste, a settling chamber in the lab's storm drain system, contaminated soil, and three holes where waste solvents were disposed. Hazardous substances found at the site include waste solvents, including tetrachloroethene, solid rocket fuel propellants, cooling tower chemicals, sulfuric acid, freon, mercury, and chemical laboratory wastes. Elevated levels of carbon tetrachloride, trichloroethene, tetrachloroethene, and other VOCs were discovered in ground water under the site in 1990.

► Since 1941, Copper Drum Co. has recycled drums at its 3.8 acre site in South Gate. Specifically, the company has reconditioned closed-topped steel drums that previously held a variety of industrial chemicals.

Soil samples revealed in 1987 the presence of VOCs 30 feet below the surface of the property and a nearby school was later closed after a caustic liquid waste seeped underground from the property to the school. Monitoring wells drilled in 1990 were found to contain VOCs including tetrachloroethene, trichloroethene, vinyl chloride, 1,1-dichloroethane, 1,1-dichloroethene, 1,2-dichloroethane, and benzene.